

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 06624 021513Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7049
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS ATHENS 6624

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN RELATIONS: INITIAL REACTIONS TO HOUSE EMBARGO VOTE

1 THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC GOG REACTION SO FAR (AS OF
1730 LOCAL) TO THE HOUSE VOTE TO LIFT THE TURKISH ARMS
EMBARGO. ALL AUGUST 2 ATHENS NEWSPAPERS , HOWEVER, PROMINENTLY
FEATURED THE VOTE, ALTHOUGH THE NEWS WAS RECEIVED TOO LATE
FOR ANY EDITORIAL COMMENT. DETAILED FACTUAL COVERAGE OF THE
HOUSE PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING THE TEXT OR SUMMARIES OF THE
WRIGHT AMENDMENT, REFERENCES TO THE VARIOUS OTHER AMEND-
MENTS, AND EXCERPTS FROM THE DEBATE/WERE GIVEN IN MIST NEWS-
PAPERS. BASED ON DISPATCHES AND INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON.

2. PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI HIGHLIGHTED THE NARROW
MARGIN IN THE VOTE IN ITS HEADLINE, "THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED
BY A THREE VOTE MARGIN: THE WRIGHT AMENDMENT ACCEPTED BY
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CONGRESS 208-205". LIBERAL OPPOSITION TO VIMA, AS
OTHER PAPERS, NOTED THAT THE WRIGHT AMENDMENT WAS
ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE BYRD AMENDMENT ADOPTED BY
THE SENATE LAST WEEK. IF FOOT-NOTED THE EMBARGO
STORY WITH AN AUGUST 1 ANKARA DISPATCH QUOTING TURKISH
PREMIER ECEVIT AS HAVING SAID THAT REGARDLESS OF THE
OUTCOME OF THE HOUSE VOTE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD

MADE EVERY EFFORT TO LIFT THE EMBARGO. HE WAS ALSO REPORTED AS HAVING EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER THE TURKISH AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE BLACK SEA AND STATED THAT A COMPARABLE AGREEMENT IS NECESSARY WITH GREECE IN ORDER TO STENGTHEN PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

3. OTHER PRESS COVERAGE SOUNDED BITTER NOTES OR ATTEMPTED TO MAKE A MORE EXPLICIT CONNECTION BETWEEN THE EMBARGO VOTE AND ECEVIT'S

STATEMENT. PRO-GOVERNMENT AKROPOLIS SAID IN RED HEARLINES THAT "CARTER WON THE BATTLE IN FAVOR OF TURKEY BY 3 VOTES". FAR-RIGHT ELEFTHEROS KOSMOS YESTERDAY HAD QUOTED A SUNDAY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE ON THE ALLEGED ROLE OF FORMER KING CONSTANTINE IN THE MAY SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE VOTE AGAINST LIFTING THE EMBARGO AND THE ACTION INCREASING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE. TODAY'S KOSMOS STORY WAS HEADLINED "THE EMBARGO ABOLISHED THIS MORNING" WITH THE SUBHEADLINE "BECAUSE OF HIS AGREEMENT WITH MOSCOW, ECEVIT DEMANDS HALF OF THE AEGEAN". MOSCOW-ORIENTED RIZOSPASTIS SAID THAT "CONGRESS VOTED THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, WITH A PAINLESS AMENDMENT TO "SWEETEN THE PILL," AND COMMENTED THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S POSITION ON THE 'IMPASE' OF THE KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT'S ATLANTIC

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POLICY WAS NOW CONFIRMED BY EVENTS.

4. AFTERNOON REPORTING CONTINUED THE FACTUAL COVERAGE OF THE EMBARGO VOTE WITH FURTHER DETAILS ON THE DEBATE BUT WITHOUT SEPARATE EDITORIAL COMMENT. LEFTIST OPPOSITION TA NEA HIGHLIGHTED MAJORITY LEADER BRADEMAS' REMARK (ALSO COVERED IN OTHER NEWSPAPERS) THAT BECAUSE OF THE STANCE HE HAD TAKEN IN SUPPORT OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO, THE PRESIDENT HAD NOW ASSUMED A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. PRO-GOVERNMENT VRADYNI WROTE THAT "CARTER WON A PYRRHIC VICTORY, LIBERAL AMERICA SHOWED ITS STRENGTH BUT ALL THAT DID NOT ALTER REALITY".

MILLS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US
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